

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 USIA-06 L-03

/064 W

-----310936Z 002129 /15

P R 310739Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 545

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CANBERRA 3871

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, ILO, EI, AS

SUBJECT: ILO - 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC)

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REF: A) CANBERRA 3625 B) STATE 103405

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE FROM DFA
CONCERNING SUBJECT CONFERENCE:

"DEPARTMENTS IN AUSTRALIA ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE EXPOSITION
OF US' VIEWS CONTAINED IN THE NOTE RECEIVED ON 12 MAY

AND FOR THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CLOSE CONSULTATIONS ON THE 63RD SESSION OF THE ILC. THE EMBASSY WILL BE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH AUSTRALIA ATTACHES TO THE CONTINUATION OF US' MEMBERSHIP OF THE ILO AND WILL KNOW THAT WE ARE ON RECORD AS HAVING SUPPORTED RECENT US' INITIATIVES IN THE ORGANISATION, NOTABLY DURING THE 201ST AND 202ND SESSIONS OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY. THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE WILL MAINTAIN SIMILAR POSITIONS AND WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO A CONTRINUATION OF CLOSE CONSULATION ON ALL MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN.

"2. TURNING TO THE SPECIFIC ISSUES DISCUSSED IN THE US' NOTE OF 12 MAY:

"(I) ISRAELI RESOLUTION

"AUSTRALIAN DELEGATIONS TO THE PAST TWO GOVERNING BODY SESSIONS HAVE SUPPORTED MOVES TO 'CLOSE THE BOOK' ON THE 1974 CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ENTITLED 'THE POLICY OF DISCRIMINATION, RACISM AND VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS PRACTISED BY THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES IN PALESTINE AND IN THE OTHER OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES.' AT THE ILC THE AUSTRALIAN POLICY WILL AGAIN BE GEARED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS GOAL.

"(II) ARTICLE 17 AMENDMENT

" AUSTRALIA AGREES THAT ARTICLE 17 OF THE CONFERENCE
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STANDING ORDERS IS IN NEED OF AN OVERHAUL, AND SUPPORTS THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED BY THE U.S. BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE AMENDMENT IS FULLY PRACTICAL AND SO DRAFTED THAT IT WOULD BE LIKELY TO ATTRACT AS WIDE SUPPORT AS POSSIBLE WHILE ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE ENVISAGED, WE COULD PREFER AT THIS STAGE TO RESERVE OUR POSITION ON THE ACTURAL WORDING TO BE USED. WE SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL THAT THIS MATTER SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

"(III) APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS

"AUSTRALIA SUPPORTS THE PROPOSITION THAT CASES OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH CONVENTIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN EQUAL TREATMENT REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL SYSTEMS.

"(IV) STRUCTURE

"AUSTRALIA AGREES THAT THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SHOULD
CONCENTRATE ON ISSUES OFFERING THE WIDEST POSSIBILITY FOR
AGREEMENT AND THAT CONFRONTATION EFFORTS DESIGNED TO FORCE
ISSUES ARE LIKELY TO BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. WE WOULD LIKE
TO SEE A BROAD CONSENSUS EMERGE ON THE FUTURE PROGRAM OF
DISCUSSIONS ON STRUCTURE.

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/064 W

-----310934Z 002207 /15

P R 310739Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 546
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CANBERRA 3871

"(V) GOVERNING BODY CHAIRMANSHIP

(AS THE U.S. WILL BE AWARE, AUSTRALIA BELONGS TO THE
ASIAN GOVERNMENT GROUP IN THE ILO, AND THAT GROUP HAS
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CONSISTENTLY TAKEN THE POSITION THAT IT DOES NOT INTER-
FERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER REGIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT
THERE SHOULD BE NO DEPARTURE FROM THE PRACTICE
OF REGIONAL ROTATION OF THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE
GOVERNING BODY. ALTHOUGH HOLDING TO THE VIEW THAT THE
CHAIRMAN SHOULD AS A GENERAL RULE COME FROM THE RANKS
OF GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE NOMINATION
THIS YEAR OF MR. MORRIS.

"(VI) SERVICE ON COMMITTEES AND PARTICIPATION IN DEBATE
"AUSTRALIA WILL BE PREPARED TO SERVE ON CONFERENCE
COMMITTEES WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE MANPOWER RESOURCES
AVAILABLE TO ITS DELEGATION, AND WILL EXPECT TO PARTI-
CIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE PLENARY AND COMMITTEE DEBATES.
IN DECIDING ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHAIRMANSHIP OF COM-
MITTEES, AUSTRALIA WILL BE GUIDED BY THE REGIONAL CON-
SIDERATIONS WHICH NORMALLY APPLY IN THESE CASES AND, SO
FAR AS ITS OWN DELEGATION IS CONCERNED, BY THE LIMITATIONS
OF ITS MANPOWER RESOURCES.

"(VII) CONTACT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

"THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION AT THE CONFERENCE WILL
EXPECT TO CONSULT WIDELY ON CRITICAL CONFERENCE ISSUES
WITH DELEGATIONS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, NOTABLY THOSE
WHICH LIKE IT ARE MEMBERS OF THE ASIAN GOVERNMENT GROUP."

2. AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONFERENCE WILL BE:

GOVERNMENT ADVISORS SIR HALFORD COOK, SPECIAL LABOR ADVISOR
IN EUROPE; MR. WATCHORN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT
OF EMPLOYMENT; MINISTER TONY STREET WILL ALSO ATTEND THE
CONFERENCE FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS; EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVE
MR. GEORGE POLITIES; AND EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVE MR. FRANK
SOUTER.

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